

**INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.2151-MC-FFS**

**DATE:** July 24, 2020

**TO:** Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Providers, Case Managers, Provider Associations

**APPLIES TO:** Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS)

**FROM:** Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

**RE:** Posting Provider Self Assessments to the IME Website

**EFFECTIVE:** July 15, 2020

In response to public comments received on the HCBS Settings statewide transition plan (STP), and included in the most recent STP draft submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Department has assured transparency in access to provider information for compliance with the HCBS setting rules as implemented in Iowa. As such, on July 15, 2020, the Department will post all finalized HCBS Waiver Provider Quality Self Assessments (form 470- 4547) received by the IME in 2019 to the Department's [website](#)<sup>1</sup>.

The HCBS annual Provider Self-Assessment process was developed as a way for the IME to gather data to support the quality framework performance measures as required by the CMS. The provider self-assessment process mirrors a CMS review process by requiring waiver providers to develop a quality improvement system of monitoring their own performance and then “showing” the state how it provides quality oversight.

The provider self-assessment identifies a core set of policies and procedures required for all waiver providers based on the services they provide. The policies and procedures are the foundation of a provider's performance and guide them on the provision of waiver services. The state has identified a minimal set of policies and procedures based on the CMS assurances, Iowa Administrative Code requirements, the Iowa Code, federal regulations and best practices identified through previous quality oversight activities of HCBS providers.

In recent years the provider self-assessment has included requirements for compliance with the HCBS Settings regulations. The provider self-assessment requires a provider to identify all applicable policies and procedures that have been established by the provider to ensure compliance with HCBS rules and regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/providers/enrollment/provider-quality-management-self-assessment>

By posting the provider self-assessments, the Department is making provider information available to all interested parties about an individual provider's compliance with the HCBS rules, regulations, and quality related information in HCBS waiver and Habilitation programs in the state.

The Provider self-assessments will be posted to [Provider Quality Management Self-Assessment page](#)<sup>2</sup> of the DHS website.

Questions should be directed to Brian Wines, HCBS program Manager, at [bwines@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:bwines@dhs.state.ia.us).

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<sup>2</sup> <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/providers/enrollment/provider-quality-management-self-assessment>